

Adjustably mounted spray nozzle for windshield washer fluid of a motor vehicle

The invention concerns an adjustably mounted spray nozzle for windshield washer fluid of a motor vehicle.

In connection with spray nozzles of this kind, which, for example as taught by DE 43 38 685 C1, are disposed in a channel located below a windshield in a manner relatively hidden from external view, a problem that is addressed by the invention lies in the ability to adjust this spray nozzle as easily as possible from outside the channel in order to change the orientation of its spray jet.

This problem is solved, in a spray nozzle of like kind, by means of an implementation according to the characterizing features of Claim 1.

Advantageous and useful implementations are the subject matter of the dependent claims.

The invention is based on the general idea of creating a spray nozzle and mounting it in a receiving element in such a way as to produce a ready-to-use mounting which, once installed, can no longer be recalibrated or adjusted in the x- and y-directions of the vehicle. The only thing that can be recalibrated or adjusted at that time is the direction of the spray jet with respect to a z-plane perpendicular to the bearing axis. To gain this calibrating or adjusting capability, a pivot bearing is provided in a y-axis of the vehicle inside the receiving element. The receiving element can be a fairing disposed in front of and facing a vehicle windshield, in a channel located anteriorly of the bottom end thereof. The fairing as a whole forms a cavity in which the spray nozzle is pivotably mounted according to the invention. The bearings in which the spray nozzle is pivotably mounted are configured as snap-in or push-in bearings. This means that the bearings are easy to assemble. The bearing axis¹ of the spray nozzle simultaneously comprises connection

¹ TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: The German word *Achse* means both "axis" and "shaft." For the sake of consistency we are translating it as "axis" throughout, although in some instances, such as this one, a tangible element is obviously intended.

pieces for feeding washer fluid into the nozzle or feeding a fluid through the spray nozzle to an optional additional spray nozzle.

The spray nozzle is pivoted by means of an adjusting drive comprising an abutment fixedly provided at the spray nozzle and an adjusting-drive manipulator that cooperates with the abutment. The adjusting-drive manipulator is adjustably mounted in the receiving element of the spray nozzle. The adjusting drive can be for example a threaded spindle drive. The adjusting-drive manipulator is then the threaded spindle, provided with a handwheel.

The spray nozzle, including its adjusting drive, is mounted inside the receiving element in such a way that the only connection to the outside is through a first and a second opening in the receiving element constituted by the fairing part. At least one jet of washer fluid from the spray nozzle is able to pass through the first opening to an assigned pane to be sprayed. The second opening is used to operate the handwheel of the threaded spindle of the spray-nozzle adjusting drive. The threaded spindle drive can be implemented with a self-lock mechanism to keep it from adjusting on its own.

Any other adjusting drive can be used in place of the threaded spindle drive. The only prerequisite is that it be possible to make an adjustment quickly and easily from outside the fairing part and that the adjusted position of the spray nozzle not be able to change on its own. Like the spray nozzle itself, the adjusting-drive handwheel, for example the threaded spindle equipped with a handwheel, is mounted in snap-in or push-in bearings.

A particularly advantageous exemplary embodiment, explained in more detail hereinafter, is illustrated in the drawing.

Therein:

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal section through the region of the vehicle located in front of the vehicle windshield, in cutaway,

Fig. 2 is a view of a spray nozzle as depicted in Fig. 1, pivotably mounted in a fairing element disposed in front of and in spaced relation to the windshield,

Fig. 3 is a view of the mounting elements inside the fairing part with the spray nozzle not yet installed,

Fig. 4 is a view of a spray nozzle not yet installed, with supply lines connected and the complete adjusting drive,

Fig. 5 is a view of the fairing element in the region of the openings leading to the spray nozzle, looking outward from the windshield.

Disposed in front of a windshield 1, in the lower region thereof, is a channel 3 that is open to the windshield 1 and is bounded anteriorly by an inwardly hollow fairing element 2. A spray nozzle 4 for windshield washer fluid is pivotably mounted in the upper inner region of the fairing part 2, within a y-axis of the vehicle. The fairing element 2 serves as the receiving element for spray nozzle 4.

The bearing elements for mounting spray nozzle 4, which are integrated into fairing part 2, can best be seen in Fig. 3. According to that figure, said bearing elements are each configured as webs 5 and 6. These webs 5, 6 contain keyway-shaped openings, the keyways each having a circular profile. The keyway openings of these webs 5 and 6 each have a gap width that can be expanded by elastic deformation of the keyway-equipped webs.

The spray nozzle 4, whose configuration can best be understood from Fig. 4, has a bearing axis 7 with two pivot pins 8 forming the ends thereof.

The pivot pins 8 terminate axially outwardly in connecting pieces 9, to each of which a washer fluid supply line 10 can be connected. The spray nozzle 4 can be snapped into the webs 5 via the pivot pins 8. In the snapped-in state, spray nozzle 4 is able to pivot about its bearing axis 7.

Spray nozzle 4 is made to pivot by means of an adjusting drive 11, implemented in the present exemplary embodiment as a threaded spindle drive. To itemize the structure, threaded spindle adjusting drive 11 is composed of a grooved abutment 12, which is fixedly connected to spray nozzle 4 or is formed directly thereon, and a threaded spindle 14, provided with a handwheel 13 and pivotably mounted in the webs 6 of fairing element 2. Just as spray nozzle 4 is mounted in webs 5 by snap locking, threaded spindle 14 is also snapped into the webs 6 of fairing element 2. The spray jets generated in spray nozzle 4 are able to pass through fairing element 2 via an opening 15 provided therein. The handwheel 13 of threaded spindle 14 is assigned to an

additional opening 16 provided in fairing part 2 and accessible from outside the channel 3, and can be operated through said opening 16.

A spray nozzle 4 implemented and mounted according to the invention can be preassembled in a simple manner during vehicle assembly, and after such preassembly needs only to be finely calibrated by means of the handwheel 13 of adjusting drive 11.

All of the features set forth in the description and in the following claims can be essential to the invention, both individually and together in any form.